

This Computes!



Department of Health Services Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #174

Audiology Authorizations for Clients with Commercial Health Maintenance Organization Coverage

With the implementation of the E 47 enhancements to the CMS Net system the use of other health coverage became an automated check in the EDS claims processing system. This edit prevents inappropriate CCS payment for services that a CCS client's other health coverage should cover. However, it has presented some issues for clients eligible for CCS services relating to hearing disorders when that client also has commercial health maintenance organization (HMO) coverage that covers partial audiological benefits.

Currently, claims submitted to EDS for these clients are being denied due to the other health coverage even when submitted with an approved SAR. We are working with EDS to modify the edit to allow for payment of these claims. This change will take some time to implement.

In the interim, authorizations for audiology services (codes contained in SAR Service Code Grouping 04 ONLY) to clients with commercial HMO coverage who are eligible for CCS as the result of a covered hearing disorder must be issued as Legacy Authorizations. Counties and the Regional Office staff need to work with our audiology providers explaining the issue and the need for the Legacy Authorization and the billing process that is required for a claim with a Legacy Authorization.

We recognize that providers have become accustomed to the SAR and the billing process it facilitates. However, until the edit is modified at EDS, the use of the Legacy process is the only way to enable providers billing for audiology services provided to clients with commercial HMO coverage to be reimbursed.